

# IMPROVED LIGAND BINDING ASSAYS FOR VANILLOID RECEPTORS

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

- 5           The present invention describes an assay in which pH alters RTX affinity to VR1 receptors. The RTX affinity was increased with increasing pH from 4.1 to 8.6. Both the RTX affinity and apparent number of RTX binding sites were decreased with increasing pH from 8.6 to 10.6. The high pH may be causing the cell membranes to denature. These pH conditions (pH 8.0 to pH 9.0)
- 10       provide a high signal to noise ratio, give a more robust assay and require use of less experimental materials.